



ASSEMBLYMEMBER KAREN BASS

Representing the 47th Assembly District



Issue One

District Newsletter

Fall 2006

Join the 47th Assembly District People's Council

Assemblymember Bass has launched the 47th Assembly District People's Council to provide residents an opportunity to actively participate in the legislative process and involvement in educational activities.

This will include the following:

HEALTH COMMISSION

- Organize health fairs and educational presentations on key health policy issues as well as health education on diabetes, heart disease, etc.

EDUCATION COMMISSION

- Participate in town hall meetings to discuss key education policies
- Organize community fairs to make sure our youth take advantage of federal and state financial aid programs

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

- Organize small businesses in the 47th to take advantage of State contracts and business opportunities

ENVIROMENTAL COMMISSION

- Share the concerns and monitor key environmental policies affecting the 47th District as well as the State

I need to hear from you...
Please complete the survey on
Page 8

Message From Karen

It has been a very exciting year. This is our first District Newsletter, which will be produced quarterly. This issue highlights our accomplishments since taking office in 2004.

We have a very diverse district with many cultural gems located around town. Some of the highlights in this issue include a list of museums located in the 47th District; highlights from the town hall meetings on immigration and the death penalty; groundbreaking of the I-10 sound wall; legislative updates; the 47th District's Woman of the Year awards and much more.

This fall, I launched the People's Council for the 47th Assembly District. This will give residents an opportunity to participate in the legislative process. I am also planning town hall meetings on the issues that affect our District. There will be other community events as well.

Along with the Newsletter, I have re-launched my Assembly Web Site. Check it out by logging on at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a47/>. The site will provide you with updates on events and activities in Sacramento and in the District.

Karen Bass

**Check out the EXTRA! EXTRA! Section with
photos and information from the Foster
Care Conference and Bill Signing**

Updates

Select Committee on Foster Care

With California having the largest Foster Care System than any state in the country, the Select Committee on Foster Care, chaired by Assemblymember Bass, was formed to tackle the issue. The state has approximately 80,000 youth in the System statewide.

The 13 member, bi-partisan committee will focus on improving the outcomes of foster youth. Assemblymember Bill Maze (R-Barstow) serves as the vice chair for the Select Committee. Other members are Wilma Chan (Oakland), Judy Chu (Monterey Park), Rebecca Cohn (Saratoga), Hector De La Torre (South Gate), Noreen Evans (Santa Rosa), Lori Hancock (Berkeley/Richmond), Shirley Horton (San Diego), Dave Jones (Sacramento), Mark Leno (San Francisco), Carol Liu (Pasadena) and Sharon Runner (Lancaster).



Select Committee on Foster Care listen to celebrity guests at an Informational Briefing held at the Capitol to kick-off Foster Care Awareness Month in May

California Legislators Undertake Reforming the State's Foster Care System

With bi-partisan participation, California legislators have accomplished a great deal in its efforts to improve the state's Foster Care System. The Select Committee embarked on a campaign that addressed many issues that affect foster youth in the state.

"Our goal was to ensure that our efforts have an immediate impact on the State's Foster Care System," said Assemblymember Bass. "It's evident that we need to directly tackle the problems that have crippled our System by strategically focusing on the key issues in order to improve foster care in California."

- The Select Committee held a series of activities to bring more attention to the issue. Earlier in the year, the Committee introduced a 25 piece legislative package, which addresses various components of the System including emancipation, health, education, relative care, social worker workload, state oversight and legal issues.
- The 2006-2007 state budget included \$82 million Foster Care and Child Welfare budget package, which will provide funds for caseload standards, relative care support, transitional programs, Title IV-E waiver implementation, dependency drug courts, and systemic improvements.
- In May, a contingent of celebrities joined Bass and Maze to help kick off Foster Care Awareness Month at the State Capitol by meeting with the leadership of the Senate and Assembly as well as a meeting with Governor Schwarzenegger to discuss the State's Foster Care System.
- The celebrity guests included daytime television actress Victoria Rowell, who grew up in the foster care system and has founded her own non-profit organization to support foster care youth and award winning actress Jane Seymour. Also on hand were *That 70's Show's* star Kurtwood Smith, his wife and the foster youth who they mentor Beatrice Franklin; and R&B artist and producer Kashif, who grew up in the foster care system; and *The Shield's* star Catherine Bent, a foster youth mentor. Celebrities met with bi-partisan leadership from both the Senate and Assembly.
- Other activities included a series of hearing conducted by the Select Committee throughout to state addressing relative caregivers, and emancipation issues. Attendees included foster youth, social workers, administrators and foster care reform advocates. The Legislature has also approved a historic bond package includes \$50 million that will address housing needs for emancipated youth.
- Early this year, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Foster Care was created, which studies how to secure safe and permanent homes for children in California's foster care system. Chaired by California Supreme Court Justice Carlos R. Moreno, the commission is made up of judges, attorneys, community leaders, foster care experts and legislators including Assemblymember Bass.
- To cap off the year, Members of the Select Committee for Foster Care and a statewide coalition of advocates and foster youth joined the Governor for the signing of critical foster care bills at the Foster Care Summit in the Capitol. A couple of hundred people were on hand to review the accomplishments and challenges of this year as well as set the policy agenda for 2007-2008 legislative session.

"It was a great year and it took a coalition of support and participation," states Bass. "Its important to continue the momentum for next year in order to positively impact the System and the implement effective and tangible change."

From the Capitol



Assembly members Karen Bass (LBC vice chair), Mervyn Dymally (LBC chair) and Mark Ridley-Thomas listen to residents at State of Black California Town Hall Meeting in Sacramento

The Legislative Black Caucus Convenes The State of Black California

The Legislative Black Caucus (LBC) and Assemblymember Bass have scheduled Town Hall meetings throughout the state for Black Californians to express the issues and concerns that affect their community. The town hall meetings in the five regions of the state – Inland Empire, Sacramento, San Diego, the Bay Area and Los Angeles, will obtain first hand information on the social, economic, political and cultural conditions of the Black Community.

Two of the five scheduled meetings – one in the Inland Empire and another in Sacramento – have already been convened. Bass, who serves as the vice chair of the LBC and is currently the only Black female in the State Legislature, explained the reason why this effort is important to the Black community, "We are launching a statewide effort to make sure that the people have an opportunity to participate in the public policy process. It's imperative that we get involved at every level."

The State of Black California is a report that puts forth a legislative agenda to address public policy issues facing Black Californians. The information gathered at the Town Hall meetings throughout the State will be combined with quantitative research being conducted by a team from Universities of

California Los Angeles and Berkeley. An additional goal is to expose Black Californians to African American legislators currently serving. LBC members include Caucus Chairman Mervyn Dymally, Assemblymember Karen Bass, Senator Kevin Murray, Assemblymember Jerome Horton, Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas and Senator Edward Vincent.

Upcoming Events

- October 21, 2006**
10 a.m. State of Black California – San Diego Town Hall Meeting
 Ed Cultural Complex Development Center
 4343 Ocean View Blvd.
 San Diego, CA
- October 22, 2006**
3 p.m. People's Council to Host Informational Ballot/Bonds Town Hall Meeting
 Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies
 5931 West 18th Street
 Los Angeles, CA
- October 25-26**
8:30 a.m. Cash for College Community Event
 Los Angeles Convention Center
 1201 South Figueroa
 Los Angeles, CA

For more updates and more information, contact the District office at (323) 937-4747 or log on to <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a47>

**To Volunteer or for Internship
 Opportunities at the District Office call
 (323) 937-4747
 or at the Capitol Office
 call (916) 319-2047**

Around the District

Bass and Westside Activists Join Cal Trans to Kick Off I-10 Sound Wall Construction

After years of neighborhood activism, a government and community partnership secured a sound wall on the westbound Santa Monica Freeway (I-10). On February 3rd, Assemblymember Bass and Caltrans, along with neighborhood groups announced the construction launch with a groundbreaking event at the Palms Recreational Center, 2950 Overland Avenue, Los Angeles.

"This is an important milestone for the community," lauded Assemblymember Bass. "The I-10 sound barrier promises to save time, money and reduce noise."



Assemblymember Bass provides remarks at the groundbreaking for the I-10 Sound Wall construction

Local residents successfully advocated for the barrier construction as a critical solution to excessive noise pollution. The sound wall will be constructed on the westbound Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) between Motor Avenue and Military Avenue in West Los Angeles.

In 2002, voters approved Proposition 42, which directs funds from the gasoline sales tax to fund similar transportation projects throughout the state. The freeway 10 sound wall project will cost \$1.38 million.

Cheviot Hills Homeowners Association, Westwood Gardens Civic Association and West of Westwood Homeowners Association leaders joined elected officials including County Board of Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and Councilman Herb Wesson at the ceremony.

Bass' Selections for 47th AD Woman of the Year

For the last two years, women committed to the community were named the 47th Assembly District's Woman of the Year by Assemblymember Bass in celebration of Women's History Month. Each year, the California State Assembly honors women who have demonstrated leadership and extraordinary community service within their districts.

In 2005, Bettie Jo McKinney, who has been a community activist for more than 30 years, was honored by the Assemblymember. McKinney is a co-founding member of the Park Mesa Heights Community Council, which represents more than 45,000 stakeholders in the Hyde Park, Angeles Mesa and View Heights' communities.

McKinney also serves on the South Los Angeles Area Planning Commission, the Crenshaw Community Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors of Delta Sigma Theta Life Development, Inc. McKinney is the founding member and former Vice President of Los Angeles African American Women Political Action Committee (LAAAWPAC) and an executive board member to the New Frontier Democratic Club.

In 2006, community volunteer Mollie "Lee" Welinsky who has been involved in the 47th Assembly District community for more than 40 years, was honored by Bass.

She began her service in 1956 as a member of the Culver City Planning Commission. For the next four decades, Welinsky has served as a volunteer to improve the community. She was a member of the Culver City Landlord/Tenant Mediation Board and the Culver City Planning Commission. She also worked for the Santa Monica Rent Control Board for more than 10 years.

Welinsky has also held prominent City, County and State Democratic Party positions including president of the Culver City Democratic Club, elected member of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party and elected member of the Democratic State Party. She has been a driving force of the Democrats for Israel, an organization officially chartered by the California Democratic Party. As a longtime member and leader, she has spearheaded the organization to a prominent voice in the community.

47th District' Places of Interest

The 47th Assembly District has a lot to be proud of including the five museums that provides Los Angelinos a cultural haven to enjoy.

Page Museum at Rancho La Brea Tar Pits
5801 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
www.tarpits.org
(323) 934-7243



Located at the Rancho La Brea, one of the world's most famous fossil localities, it is recognized for having the largest and diverse assemblage of extinct Ice Age plants and animals in the world.

Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Culture Center at UCLA
10899 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90024
www.hammer.ucla.edu
(310) 443-7000

A modern museum with innovative exhibits, art pieces and shows



Los Angeles County of Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323) 857-6000
The museum includes galleries and permanent collections such as Japanese art and German expressionism.

Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance
9786 West Pico Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90035
www.museumoftolerance.com
(310) 553 - 8403
A one-of-a kind, trend-setting pioneer with original exhibits and programs.

Museum of Craft and Folk Art
5814 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90036
www.mocfa.org
(323)937-4230

This museum has objects from around the world including a collection of masks from India, America, Mexico, Japan, and China.

Petersen Automotive Museum
6060 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90036
www.petersen.org
(323) 930-2277



The Petersen Museum has ongoing exhibits of beautiful antique and classic cars as well as educational programs.

The UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History
405 Hilgard Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90024
www.fowler.ucla.edu
(310) 825-4361
Explores art and material culture primarily from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas, past and present.

47th District Town Hall Meetings Town Hall Held to Discuss a Moratorium on the Death Penalty

A town hall meeting on a Moratorium on the death penalty was held in April at the Iranian Muslim Association of North America (IMAN) Center. Assemblymember Paul Koretz, constitutional lawyer Stephen Rhode and several exonerated individuals were also on hand to explore both sides of the debate on a moratorium on the death penalty. This community event offered residents an opportunity to express their views and concerns on this hot button issue.

This event was co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, which includes the Progressive Jewish Alliance, Action Committee for Women in Prison, Death Penalty Focus, Amnesty International, The Campaign to End the Death Penalty, People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty, Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

Informational Town Hall Meeting Held for the Black Immigrant Community

Assemblymember Bass convened a town hall meeting with union and immigration rights leaders to discuss the pending legislation and the way it will affect the immigrant communities. The event that brought together the African, Caribbean, Guyanese and Belizean communities, provided more than 150 attendees with information on the immigrant rights movements and their efforts to bring attention the issues.

"It is important to ensure that the Black immigrant community is aware of the proposed legislation," states Assemblymember Bass. "This forum gave us an opportunity to inform and encourage participation in the movement that will ensure a fair and comprehensive approach to immigrant rights. It is imperative that we ensure that all the immigrant communities are informed."

The event began with a panel discussion, which included Maria Elena Durazo, LA County Federation; Alvaro Huerta, Coalition for Humane Immigration Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA); Mike Garcia, SEIU 1877; Michael Ortiz, Legal Aid Foundation and immigration attorney Mulu Alemayehu. Consulate Generals from Belize, South Africa and Kenya also attended the event.

Panelists expressed the importance of the communities working together in order to ensure the efforts are clear, consistent and effective. Co-sponsors for the event are the Ethiopian American Advocacy Group, CHIRLA and Central American Resource Center.

District Office Services

My staff can assist you with...

- Renters/homeowners assistance programs
- Property tax postponement
- Government forms
- Department of Motor Vehicles
- Consumer complaints
- State Franchise Tax Board
- Unemployment and disability insurance
- Medicare and Medi-Cal
- Veterans' affairs

PUBLIC SERVICES

You can obtain the following through my office...

- State pamphlets
- Reports issued by the Legislature and state agencies
- Information on and appropriate forms for homeowner, senior citizen, disabled and renter tax relief programs
- State Budget information
- Consumer protection information
- "Where to find it" - state agency information
- Information on Capitol tours

For more information, contact my District Office at (323) 937-4747

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I schedule Assemblymember Bass to speak at our event?

I am always open to speak at events throughout the community. Contact my scheduler at 916-319-2047 or fax your request to (916) 319-2147.

I would like to have Assemblymember Bass attend my event, what do I need to do?

You can send an invitation to my office by mail or fax.

Assemblymember Karen Bass
Capitol Office
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento CA 94249-0047
916-319-2147 fax

How can I have Assemblymember Bass acknowledge our event?

I can provide a certificate or a welcome message for your event. All I need is the following information:

- Name of the organization
- Event name
- Date of the event
- Biographies of people being recognized
- Deadline

You can send this information to my District Office at 5750 Wilshire Blvd Suite 565 Los Angeles, CA 90036 or fax it to 323-937-3466



Assemblymember Bass poses with local radio personality Dominique Diprima from KJLH's *Front Page*. Assemblymember Bass discussed Foster Care and answered questions from listeners who called into to show.



Constituents have a discussion with Bass at a reception before the Immigration Town Hall Meeting. Consulates from the African Embassies in the 47th Assembly District were invited with other community leaders to the event.



Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce President Clarence Daniels and Chairman Gene Hale present Assemblymember Bass with the Public Service Award for her efforts to assist California's small businesses that seek to obtain contracts with local and state governments.

Volunteer Spotlight



**Dr. Bettye
Anderson**

Dr. Bettye Anderson has been a community activist and advocate for children and education for over thirty years. She studied Family Law at UCLA and completed the paralegal program. In 1997, she opened up two foster homes and two homes for at risk teen mothers and their babies. Dr. Anderson currently is President of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Association for the Education for Young Children. Additionally she serves on the board for the Youth and Families Planning Counsel for Spa 6 and numerous committees.

Dr. Anderson is an outstanding volunteer through her active involvement and work in assisting our office with foster and relative care cases. She has dedicated her time to relative caregivers that have encountered problems with State services. She has even appeared in court with some of families. She continually provides legal support to people across southern California and most notably to constituents in AD 47. Her warm heart continually touches our District.

Business Spotlight

Dan Henrickson and Associates
P.O. 34187
Los Angeles, CA 90034
(310) 422-7773
www.henrickson.net



Dan Henrickson and Associates helps organizations and small businesses set-up and maintain their computer network. Owner Dan Henrickson, who is a resident of the 47th Assembly District, started the company in 2002.

Currently, he is setting up the computer system for A New Way of Life, a non-profit organization that helps women and girls lead healthy and satisfying lives. His company has provided stellar customer services to our constituents and serves as a good representative of a small business in the 47th Assembly District.

Education Commission

The Education Commission's provides recommendations and analysis to Assemblymember Bass regarding education legislation and policies. It also informs and involves constituents that promote the legislative agenda as well as conducting town halls, workshops and seminars to disseminate information on key issues and best practices. Educators, administrators and community activists from the 47th District serve as members of the Commission.

Last year, the Commission held a Town Hall meeting to update residents on the status of education bills, including the California High School Exit Exam (CASHEE). Panelists included Assembly members Bass; Jackie Goldberg, who serves as the chair for the Assembly Committee on Education; and Carol Liu, who serves as the chair for the Assembly Committee on Higher Education.

The Commission's goals for this year include to explore best practices in the District and to develop a link with the business community in order to determine what the educational needs of their future workforce will be. During the summer, Assemblymember Bass reviewed the current legislative landscape with the Commissioners, which included the effects of the CASHEE decision and the LAUSD Mayoral Governance plan.

Environment Commission

The 47th Assembly District Environment Commission advises Assemblymember Bass on State and local policy regarding the environment. The Commission will work to empower 47th Assembly District residents to have a strong voice in advancing environmental justice and rehabilitation of our natural resources such as Ballona Creek and the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

Last year the Commission hosted an Environmental Town Hall to engage the larger community in dialogue about environmental legislation.

Please complete and fax survey to (323) 937-3466 or
mail to Office of Assemblymember Karen Bass • 5750 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 565 • Los Angeles, CA 90036

EDUCATION

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is Education to you?
- | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Not | | | | | Very |
| Important | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Important |
| | | | | | |
2. Would you be interested in:
- ___ participating on the 47th District's Education Commission
- ___ attending Town Hall meetings on Education issues
- ___ sending a letter to legislators on Education policy

Name	
Address	
City	
Phone	
Fax	
Email	

HEALTH

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is the Health to you?
- | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Not | | | | | Very |
| Important | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Important |
| | | | | | |
2. Would you be interested in:
- ___ attending District Health Fairs
- ___ joining the 47th District's Health Commission
- ___ attending health education presentations on issue such as diabetes, hypertension, etc.
- ___ attending Town Hall meetings on Health Policy

SMALL BUSINESSES

1. Do you own a small business?
- ___ Yes
- ___ No
2. Do you work for a small business?
- ___ Yes
- ___ No
3. Are you interested in starting a small business?
- ___ Yes
- ___ No
4. Would you be interesting in:
- ___ serving on the 47th District's Small Business Commission
- ___ attending seminars and workshops on contracts and business opportunities with the State of California

ENVIRONMENT

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is the Environment to you?
- | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Not | | | | | Very |
| Important | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Important |
| | | | | | |
2. Would you be interested in:
- ___ participating on the 47th District's Environmental Commission
- ___ attending Environmental Town Hall meetings
- ___ sending a letter to legislators on policy regarding the Environment

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

1. Do you work in the Entertainment Industry?
- ___ Yes
- ___ No
2. If yes, are you interested in sharing information and your experiences with others?
- ___ Yes
- ___ No
3. If no, are you interested in working in the Industry?
- ___ Yes
- ___ No
4. Would you be interested in:
- ___ participating on the 47th Districts Entertainment Commission
- ___ attending district events focusing on opportunities in the Entertainment Industry

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Would you be interested in receiving a District e-newsletter?
- ___ Yes (email address _____)
- ___ No
2. Do you use the Internet?
- ___ Yes
- ___ No

Contact Information

Capitol Office: State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849 | Sacramento, CA 94249-0047 | Tel: (916) 319-2047 | Fax: (916) 319-2147
District Office: 5750 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 565 | Los Angeles, CA 90036 | Tel: (323) 937-4747 | Fax: (323) 937-3466

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Governor Signs Foster Care Bills into Law with Hundreds of Foster Care Advocates and Youth on Hand at the Capitol

Members of the Select Committee for Foster Care and a statewide coalition of advocates and foster youth joined the Governor for the signing of critical foster care bills at the Foster Care Summit in the Capitol. Select Committee chair **Assemblymember Karen Bass**, vice chair Assemblymember Bill Maze and Assemblymember Bill Jones joined Governor Schwarzenegger at the foster care bill signing in the Rotunda area of the Capitol.

"This was a monumental event for everyone involved," states Assemblymember Bass. "These bills were developed based on the ideas that we received when we met with all the people who attended today's conference. They had the opportunity to be a part of the policy development process and we are excited that the Governor signed the legislation."

The following bills were signed into law:

- **AB 1979 (Bass)** – Helps recruit volunteer mentors for foster youth by waiving the fees for background checks
- **AB 2195 (Bass)** – Helps keep foster youth with relatives or extended family members during emergency circumstances and require health and safety checks for placement
- **AB 2216 (Bass)** – Helps ensure effective management and accountability the Foster Care System by building a new leadership structure
- **AB 2480 (Evans)** – Provides foster youth with adequate legal representation for juvenile cases
- **AB 2488 (Leno)** – Establishes a process for reconnecting siblings that have been separated by adoption and reduces the age at which they may seek information about their siblings from age 21 to 18
- **AB 2985 (Maze)** – Requires a county welfare department to request a consumer credit disclosure on a foster youth turning 16 and to refer that foster youth to a credit counseling organization upon any indication of a disclosure revealing negative items or evidence of identity theft
- **SB 1641 (Soto)** – Convenes a workshop to review regulations and statutes of foster care placements to identify barriers and requirements which may stigmatize foster families or result in unnecessary restrictions on foster youth
- **SB 1667 (Kuehl)** – Specifies that foster parents must be notified of planned hearings relating to adoption and legal guardianship and must be given the opportunity to attend these hearing and present information to the court; it also requires child welfare agencies to send the Judicial Council Caregiver Information Form to foster parents to notify them of court hearings

A couple of hundred people were on hand to review the accomplishments and challenges of this year as well as set the policy agenda for 2007-2008 legislative session. In June, \$82 million was allocated in the 2006-2007 state budget for Foster Care, the largest increase in more than a decade. These funds will provide support services to relative care; youth leaving the System and reducing caseloads.

"The funds represent a commitment that will enable us to address the gaps that currently exist in the System," states Assemblymember Karen Bass, chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care.

"This legislation will continue to move the needle forward as we address the needs of the state's foster youth. It will provide foster youth with needed support and resources as well as increase the System's standards and accountability.

This year's foster care reform addresses emancipation, health, education, relative/kinship issues, social worker workload, court issues, state oversight, and caregiver support.

"It was a great year and it took a coalition of support and participation," states Bass. "Its important to continue the momentum for next year in order to positively impact the System and the implement effective and tangible change."

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Photos from the
Foster Care
Conference and Bill
Signing at the
Capitol in
Sacramento

